

CLAIMS

1. A compartment for augmenting available space in a chest refrigerator, said compartment comprising:
a body configured to be coupled, in use, to a chest portion of the chest refrigerator in a hermetically sealed manner, the body having a cavity therein for receiving items to be refrigerated in use, the body being arranged such that when coupled to the chest portion the cavity is refrigerated by the chest portion, the body also having a opening for providing access to items in the cavity in use, wherein the body is arranged to be coupled to a door for covering the opening in a hermetically sealed manner.
2. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the body is arranged to be hingedly coupled to the door.
3. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the opening is in the top of the body.
4. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the opening is in a side wall of the body.
5. A compartment according claim 1, wherein the body is adapted to be hingedly coupled to the chest portion in use, such that the body may be pivoted to allow assess to an inside of the chest portion.
6. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the body includes a bottom opening to allow thermal communication between the cavity and the inside of the chest portion in use.
7. A compartment according to claim 6, wherein a barrier

is provided across the bottom opening to prevent items in the cavity falling through the bottom opening.

8. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the barrier is in the form of a grill.

9. A compartment according to claim 7, the barrier is removable from the body.

10. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein an interface between the body and the chest portion is hermetically sealed by a sealing means depending downwardly from a lower periphery of the bottom of the body.

11. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein a periphery of the body surrounding the opening is arranged to provide a hermetic seal between the body and a sealing means depending towards the body from a periphery of an inner face of the door when the sealing means is in contact with the periphery of the body in use.

12. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the door forms part of a drawer in a side wall of the cavity.

13. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the body is configured to be positioned between the door and the chest portion in use.

14. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the body is thermally insulated, such that atmospheric heat is shielded from the cavity.

15. A compartment according to claim 1, wherein the body includes an air circulator for circulating air in the cavity and in the chest portion in use.

16. A compartment for augmenting available space in a chest refrigerator, said compartment comprising:

a body configured to be coupled, in use, to a chest portion of a chest refrigerator in a hermetically sealed manner, the body having a cavity therein for receiving items to be refrigerated in use, the cavity arranged to be refrigerated by the chest portion in use; and

a door for providing access to the cavity, when opened, and arranged to be hermetically sealed when closed.

17. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the door is from the chest refrigerator.

18. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the door is hingedly coupled to the body.

19. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the door is removably hinged to the body.

20. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the body is adapted to be hingedly coupled to the chest portion in use, such that the body may be pivoted to allow access to an inside of the chest portion.

21. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the body

includes a bottom opening to allow thermal communication between the cavity and the inside of the chest portion in use.

22. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein a barrier is provided across the bottom opening to prevent items in the cavity falling through the bottom opening.

23. A compartment according to claim 22, wherein the barrier is in the form of a grill.

24. A compartment according to claims 22, wherein the barrier is removable from the body.

25. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein an interface between the body and the chest portion is hermetically sealed by a sealing means depending downwardly from a lower periphery of the bottom of the body.

26. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein an interface between the body and the door is hermetically sealed by a sealing means depending towards the body from a periphery of an inner face of the door.

27. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the door is in the top of the body.

28. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the door is in a side wall of the body.

29. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the door forms part of a drawer in a side wall of the cavity.

30. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the body is configured to be positioned between the door and the chest portion in use.

31. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the body is thermally insulated, such that atmospheric heat is shielded from the cavity.

32. A compartment according to claim 16, wherein the body includes an air circulator for circulating air in the cavity and in the chest portion in use.

33. A chest refrigerator comprising:

 a chest portion having a first cavity therein for receiving items to be refrigerated;

 a refrigeration unit for refrigerating the chest portion;

 an augmentative body coupled to the chest portion in a hermetically sealed manner, the body having a second cavity therein for receiving items to be refrigerated in use, the second cavity being refrigerated by refrigeration of the chest portion; and

 a door for providing access to the cavity, when opened, and arranged to hermetically seal the chest portion and body when closed.

34. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein the body is hingedly coupled to the chest portion, such that the body may be pivoted to allow access to the first cavity.

35. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein

an opening in the bottom of the body allows thermal communication between the first and second cavities.

36. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein a barrier is provided across the opening to prevent items in the second cavity falling into the first cavity.

37. A compartment according to claim 36, wherein the barrier is in the form of a grill.

38. A chest refrigerator according to claims 36, wherein the grill is removable.

39. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein an interface between the body and the chest portion is hermetically sealed by a sealing means depending downwardly from a lower periphery of the bottom of the body.

40. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein an interface between the body and the door is hermetically sealed by a sealing means depending towards the body from a periphery of an inner face of the door.

41. A chest refrigerator according claim 33, wherein the body is thermally insulated, such that heat is shielded from the second cavity therein.

42. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein the door is in the top of the body.

43. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein the door in is a side wall of the body.

44. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein the door forms part of a drawer in a side wall of the cavity.

45. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein the body includes an air circulator for circulating air in the second cavity and first cavity.

46. A chest refrigerator according to claim 33, wherein the chest portion includes an air circulator for circulating air in the second cavity and first cavity.

47. A compartment for use with a chest refrigerator comprising:

an open bottomed body with a cavity therein; and
a sealing means around a lower periphery of the body;
wherein the body is arranged such that in use it is coupled to an opening of a chest portion of the chest refrigerator such that the sealing means affords a hermetic seal between the body member and the chest portion, and the cavity is cooled by the chest portion.

48. A compartment according to claim 47, wherein the body is positioned between the chest portion and lid portion of the portable chest refrigerator in use, the lid portion sealably covering the open top of the body in use.

49. A compartment according to claim 47, wherein the arrangement between the body and the chest portion in use creates a first temperature zone in the chest portion and a second temperature zone in the cavity, the temperature

of the first temperature zone being less than the temperature of the second temperature zone.

50. An augmentative refrigerator compartment for use with a portable chest refrigerator, the augmentative refrigerator compartment comprising an open-topped and open-bottomed box member and a sealing means depending continuously around a lower periphery of the box member, wherein the box member is arranged in use to be mounted upon a chest portion of the portable chest refrigerator and between the chest portion and lid portion of the portable chest refrigerator such that the sealing means affords a hermetic seal between the box member and the chest portion for allowing the chest portion to cool the inside of the box member, the arrangement being such that in use a first temperature zone is formed in the chest portion and a second temperature zone is formed in a space defined by the box member, the temperature of the first temperature zone being less than the temperature of the second temperature zone.

51. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 50, characterised in that the shape and size of an upper periphery of the chest portion corresponds with the shape and size of the lower periphery of the box member.

52. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 51, characterised in that the upper periphery of the chest portion and the lower periphery of the box member are provided with reciprocal releasable securing clips to further secure the box member to the chest

portion and to assist formation of the hermetic seal there between.

53. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 50, characterised in that a lower periphery of the lid portion of the portable chest refrigerator is provided with a sealing member such that, in use, the sealing member abuts an upper periphery of the box member to form a hermetic seal there between.

54. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 53, characterised in that the upper periphery of the box member and the lower periphery of the lid portion are provided with reciprocal releasable securing clips to further secure the box member to the lid portion and to assist formation of the hermetic seal there between.

55. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 50, characterised in that the box member has an inner casing spaced apart from an outer casing, and an insulating means is disposed intermediate the inner and outer casings.

56. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 55, characterised in that the inner and outer casings are formed from anodized marine grade aluminium, non-anodized aluminium, stainless steel, plastic coated steel, or plastics material including moulded plastics.

57. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 55, characterised in that the inner casing is formed in one continuous piece to minimise the number of seams within the box member.

58. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 55, characterised in that the inner casing is provided with curved corners.

59. The augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 55, characterised in that the augmentative refrigerator compartment is further provided with a basket which is sized and shaped to fit within the inner casing so as to retain food and beverage items stored and chilled in the second temperature zone defined by the box member.

60. An augmentative refrigerator compartment according to claim 50, characterised in that the lid portion is hingedly connected to an upper periphery of the box member, and the lower periphery of the box member is hingedly connected to an upper periphery of the chest portion.

61. A portable chest refrigerator comprising a chest portion, a lid portion and an augmentative refrigerator compartment dispersed between the chest portion and the lid portion, wherein the augmentative refrigerator compartment is in accordance with claim 50.